



## Melvin Floyd Winkler

August 2, 2022

Melvin Floyd Winkler passed away Friday, July 29th 2022 at Williston Care Center following a brief illness. He was born November 13, 1938 to Floyd Bertram and Mary Helen Garman Winkler in Wadsworth, Ohio. His brother Ross joined the family a few years later. At an early age the Family bought a 30 acre farm near Creston, Ohio where they raised, pigs, chickens and mostly beef cattle. The family worked the farm for over fifty years, while his father also worked as a precision machinist. Mel attended the local Creston schools, graduating from Norwayne High School in 1956. Following High School he ventured to Indiana for an attempt at the college life. When he returned home he worked various jobs including construction, dry wall and painting achieving master level skills in all, which he taught and shared with anyone that wanted to learn. Upon his return, he also met the love of his life, Joan Marie Starkey, on a blind date, during a trip to the lake with his boat to go waterskiing. It was fate and although they knew of each other before this trip, they had never been close. Mel and Joan were married October 11, 1958 and have been married for 63 beautiful years. Three children, Richard, Kathryn, and Russell joined the happy couple. In 1966, Mel took a chance on a new company, Fabco-Air, Inc., as the number 3 employee. While working at Fabco-Air he became a highly skilled machinist, and manager. In 1970, the company had grown beyond the facility they were housed in and a decision was made to relocate to a new location and better weather in Gainesville, FL. Mel and family made the move in July of 1971 and he continued with the company until

1981 at which time he took a similar position at Bear Archery, retiring in 2001. Having been an avid water skier since a teenager, moving the family showed great promise and the family was able to purchase lake front property on Lily Lake in Melrose, FL. Encouraging this sport was always a high priority and with his, and other parents on the lake's support and guidance, the kids on the lake formed the Lily Lake Ski Club team, currently know as the Gatorland Water Ski Show 1980 and the group is active to this day. With his machining skills and a shop at his home, many specialized items were designed and produced to help build and improve the ski club. He also spent countless hours driving the boat for practices and shows. He and Joan continue to host the club at their home. Mel and Joan always loved traveling and camping, visiting Mexico and Canada as well as 49 of the 50 states, somehow missing Oklahoma. Following their retirement, they purchased a 1980 Airstream and spent many years traveling the country to visit family and friends, as well as attend Airstream rallies as far away as North Dakota. He also became an avid Golfer, achieving that elusive hole in one. Mel is survived by his Wife of 63 years, Joan. One brother, Ross (Debra) Winkler. Three children, Rick (Tony Taylor) Winkler, Kathy (Mark) Tomassi, and Rusty (Laura) Winkler. Nine grandchildren, Geoffrey, Zachary (Natalie), Reid, Grant, Shelby, Samantha (Lindsey), Patrick, Boone and Piper (Josh), as well as three great grandchildren, Kolton, Luna, and Quinn. May we all be blessed with his helpful, caring, and loving spirit.

The family will receive friends for visitation on August 3 from 6-8pm at Forrest Meadows Funeral Home, 725 NW 23rd Avenue, Gainesville, FL Funeral services will be held on August 4, at 11am, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2738 State Road 21, Melrose, FL. Join the family for lunch, at the church, following the service, in you can. Following lunch we will proceed to Forrest Meadows Central, 4100 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL for interment and final words of love.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ I worked with Mel many years ago at Bear. He was always so nice to share a conversation with, helpful and pleasantly always obliged in each and every request for assistance or to fabricate new ideas. I enjoyed when he shared news about the water skiing team. He was just a perfect gentleman. Peaceful rest Mel. Condolences to the entire family and friends.

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**Sandy Crabtree (fka Bouchard)** - August 05, 2022 at 01:53 AM

DS

“ JOAN, VERY SORRY TO LEARN OF MEL'S PASSING. I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH MEL AT THE CARE CENTER ON HIS LAST DAY HERE ON EARTH. I AM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND HAD, RECENTLY, PRAYED THE PRAYER , THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY, ON MEL'S BEHALF. YOU WILL FIND EXPLANATION OF THE CHAPLET ON THE INTERNET. GOD BLESS YOU, DICK

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**DICK SCHMELZ** - August 03, 2022 at 06:15 PM

JS

“ *Joan and family,  
My deepest condolences to you and your families. I have fond memories of you and Mel participating in our special wedding day festivities back in 1983. Chuck and I had a wonderful time as our wedding party was transported in style on the backs of two convertibles, one being yours, from Holy Faith Catholic Church to the Elks Lodge for our reception. So happy you were both there to share that day of celebration with us. Sending love and prayers in sympathy for your loss. You have a beautiful smile and I have missed seeing you over the years since Dad's retirement from ACSB. Take care. You and Mel have a huge legacy to be Proud of.*  
Love,  
Jeanette (Caswell) Sexton

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**Jeanette (Caswell) Sexton** - August 03, 2022 at 03:27 PM

KM

“ *To the Winkler Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you. My interactions with Mel were always upbeat and very cheerful; he always taught me something and welcomed me into his home. Many loved and respected Mel, and he will be greatly missed. May the Lord Above continue to give you strength during this difficult time.*

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**Kurtis McMillan** - August 03, 2022 at 11:34 AM

MS

“ *My sincerest condolences to Joan, Ricky, Kathy and Rusty. My late husband and I met Mel and Joan as band parents at Buchholz. I cherish many wonderful memories of things we did with Mel and Joan as band chaperones . This world and the band members of BHS who were lucky enough to have Mel as a chaperone are much better for their experiences.  
May Mel Rest In Peace.  
I am sending much love, hugs to each if you. Plus my prayers for the days ahead. You all will be in my heart as you walk this new path of life.*

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**Marion Sproul** - August 03, 2022 at 03:24 AM

DF

“ *So sorry to hear the news of Mel's passing. Enjoyed spending time with him and Joan even though it was not often.  
My sincere sympathy to the family.  
Deborah Fiesler. ....Dalton Ohio*

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**Deborah Fiesler** - August 02, 2022 at 05:40 PM